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Wapda workers protest against inflation

OUR STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE — Hundreds of WAPDA workers on Thursday took out rallies in various parts of the country against the inflation. Holding placards and banners, they raised slogans against unemployment and costly electricity due to rental and private thermal power houses in the country.

Headed by WAPDA Hydro Electric Central Labour Union, the workers stressed for the need for developing hydel and coal power plants. They held protest outside the Lahore Press Club in favour of their demands. The union leaders were of the view that the proposed privatisation of the national public utility of electricity would be against the public interest and the government was chalking out the privatisation plan on the behest of IMF and World Bank.

They said the elite were committing corruption at the cost of the poor masses. They demanded of the wages of the workers be increased with price hike and fixation of the minimum wages Rs 10,000. At the eve of the budget, they added, there must be 40 per cent raise in salaries of all the workers engaged in the government & semi-government departments and autonomous bodies.

The statement said that the thousands of WAPDA & electricity workers held demonstrations and protest marches all over the country on Thursday. They declared that in case the government did not accept their demands, they would be compelled to march to Islamabad.

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